

Crimea River

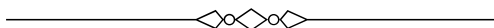
Numismagram Newsletter #28 (X/2019)



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Disclaimer. I had planned the topic for this newsletter—*touching upon the Crimean War*—a little over a month ago, well before Ukraine entered such a pivotal role in recent American, uh, “domestic issues.”



The Crimean War was a military conflict largely involving France and Great Britain against the Russian Empire, lasting for a little over two years and beginning in October 1853. Though there were many factors which led to its outbreak, the main focal point involved Russia's desire for a stronger position around the Black Sea, as this water had long been important in her military strategy and might. In the late-18th century, Russia had been able to secure this vital territory during the reign of Yekaterina II Velikaya (Catherine 'the Great'), under the successful campaign of her *favourite*, Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin-Tauricheski...



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By the mid-19th century, however, the waning of the Ottoman Empire's power provided an opportunity to Russia around not only the Black Sea but also parts of the Balkans. Great Britain and France, neither wanting to see an expanded Russia, banded together to push back the latter. Stalled action in the southeastern Black Sea by the French and British forces caused them to turn their attention to Russia's main naval base on the Crimean peninsula at

Sevastopol. This approach led to the successive battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, the initial being an allied victory, with the latter two being more indecisive...



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Nevertheless, the allied presence was felt, and the assault on Sevastopol resulted in her submission, but only after nearly a year. As Russia saw more nations coming to the side of the allies, she had no choice but seek peace and an end to the war in early 1856. One of the resounding effects of their defeat was the decree that the Black Sea be neutral, preventing Russian warships from sailing there and greatly limiting her influence in this vital, warm weather weather port.

Almost exactly 160 years later, Russia would again seek to stake her claim in the region, invading with tanks and annexing the peninsula away from neighboring Ukraine. To get an idea of the aggression, here's a WWII-era French medal providing a tank for our illustrative purposes...



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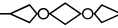
This "Crimean Crisis" continues to spark debate and remains very much in dispute. Will a 21st century band of allies repulse this Russian imperialism, similar to that of Great Britain and France of the mid 1850's? Only time will tell.

A similar encroachment occurred in late 1908, when the Austro-Hungarian Empire annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina away from the crumbling vestiges of the Ottoman Empire (*sound familiar?*). This rapid shifting concerned most of

Europe, but especially neighbors Serbia and Montenegro, for whom the relations with the Austro-Hungarian Empire became irreparably damaged. Here lay the groundwork for the spark that would eventually grow into the global conflict of World War I. Below, we have images of the aggressors of these two stories—Franz Joseph and Vladimir Putin—both on horseback, though one is significantly more clothed...



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In addition to the pieces above, this month's upload features a few more Crimean War types, some agricultural-themed plaques from France, a few silver World War I types from Germany, an interesting satirical medal focusing on the 1884 U.S. presidential election, and an incredibly rare aviation medal issued for the Edsel B. Ford campaign for promoting the growth of commercial flight here in America. Please click [here](#)

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w=z3IKDbgcU3QRXFmcPdOQDoEBgVXo2F1qE6FVtz0Vjew.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnVtaXNtYWdyYW0uY29tL2ludmVudG9yeSIsInliOil2MWQyMThiNy1mMjZhLTQxYTUtMDA5Yy04NDAzOTM5ZmNlY2YiLCJtIjoibHAifQ) to view all of the 20 new coins and medals!

Also, as we are now in October, be on the lookout for another installment of our 'skulls and skeletons' types in a mini upload later this month, just in time for Halloween!

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